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ETHIOPIA

TANJUG REPORTS ETHIOPIAN FOUR-COLUMN ADVANCE

LD091506Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1328 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 9, TANJUG--Somali forces in Jijiga and the strategic points in its vicinity at the eastern sector have been completely defeated and are unable to seriously resist the Ethiopian troops advancing in all directions, informed circles in Addis Ababa assess.

Radio Mogadiscio confirmed last night that the Somalis have lost contact with Jijiga.

According to informed information, the Ethiopian forces are advancing towards Somalia in four columns. One is advancing along the No 30 asphalt road which leads from Jijiga to Ferfer, at the Somali border. On this road, the Ethiopian forces have advanced over 170 kilometers and have liberated the town of Dagahabur.

The second, southbound column, has started from the place of Babile. Advancing along a very bad road, it has arrived to the place of Fich in the Ogaden desert and has liberated it. The third column has started from the position at Fedis, 50 kilometers south of Harar.

The eastbound column has taken the road No 4 leading towards the place of Togochale at the Somali border. No information has arrived whether or not it has liberated a town situated some 80 kilometers east of Jijiga. Reports have not been confirmed that the northbound Ethiopian forces have arrived to Djibouti border.

The liberation of Jijiga has heightened the morale of the regular Ethiopian Army and people's militia. Observers here believe that the arrival of Ethiopian forces to the Somali border is a matter of days alone.

WEAPONS SEIZED FROM 'ROUTED' SOMALI TROOPS

LD091822Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1730 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] [Words indistinct] weapons seized from routed invading Somali troops in Arero Province, Sidamo Region, have been handed over to a Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] member assigned to the region. The weapons, captured by a combined militia-police unit, included (?M-16) rifles, a bazooka, (?an UZI) machinegun and other automatic arms and ammunition.

Reports from the area say that the enemy had also lost about 150 lives while trying to mount surprise attacks on towns in the province.

ETHIOPIAN FORCES NOW 150 KM FROM KENYAN BORDER

LD1010034Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0951 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa--President Siad Barre's proposal on Somali forces' withdrawal from Ethiopian territory, made through President Carter on Wednesday evening, has been assessed here as the result of the balance of forces on the battlefield.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told TANJUG today that the Somali side "has obviously lost all hope" and that it has come to understand that it has lost the war.

Speaking further about the Somali conditions which were stated at the same time, this spokesman stressed that the "defeated side cannot make any conditions."

On the other hand, the question of self-determination for certain Ethiopian nationalities will be settled as an internal question and not as an item on the agenda in the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia, this spokesman added.

A high-ranking representative of the Ethiopian military leadership stated a few days ago that Ethiopia would ask Somalia for compensation for war damage.

From this statement, political observers draw the conclusion that the Ethiopian Army will not stop until it has completely cleared the remnants of the Somali forces in the Harar, Bale and Sidamo provinces. The Ethiopian armed forces are now in the town of Arero in Sidamo Province, less than 150 kilometers from the Kenyan border. The local press reports today that the area around Arero has been cleared of Somali forces, which left more than 150 dead in the field.

FOREIGN MINISTER FELEKE MEETS WITH GDR LEADERS

For East German ADN accounts of the visit by Foreign Minister Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, including talks with GDR leaders, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 6 March and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

ADDIS ABABA DENOUNCES 'INTERFERENCE' BY CARTER, VANCE

LD091258Y Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Station commentary: "The Justness of the Struggle is the Basic of Victory"]

[Excerpts] In their just struggle for peace, justice, equality and socialism, the Ethiopian broad masses certainly have had friends. They have also found new friends. Who are these friends? They are socialist communities and government who have themselves waged struggles similar to the present struggle of the Ethiopian broad masses. These friends are the progressive forces all over the world, who understand the justice and rightfulness of this struggle. Meanwhile, it is an open secret that those same imperialists who were yesterday exploiting the Ethiopian masses, together with the defunct regime, are today overtly and covertly seen to be prepared and armed for sabotaging the struggle. Accordingly, inasmuch as revolutionary Ethiopia is now facing invasion from the four corners and the [word indistinct] it is facing from the internal counterrevolutionary forces, the main bastions of our enemies are world imperialism and the reactionary countries.

Moreover, those who threaten our survival are plotting to restore the old order of exploitation. Those same enemies who exposed us to invasion, are today struggling to destroy the ideological relationship Ethiopia has established with the socialist governments.

Daily quoting exaggerated and varying figures, they are saying Ethiopia has too many links with the socialist countries; and the governments of Cuba, USSR and the PDRY are supporting it and this threatens peace in the area. Under these conditions, they say Ethiopia might violate Somali borders and therefore they cannot sit idly by. Meanwhile, we are not saying that the imperialists and reactionary governments are sitting idly by for Ethiopia.

The correct reply to this was given at a recent press conference by Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman, who addressed journalists from all over the world. In reply to excuses of this sort on the part of the imperialists and their reactionary puppets, the chairman said: This question has been repeated many times. It is the plaintive question of all the classes who want to use it as an excuse to support and escalate the Somali invasion. On the other hand, it is a reflection of the sort of relationship a developing country ought to have with others. Why do we have to be asked? Who questioned the United States about its military involvement in the Far East, Europe and the Middle East; or France, Britain and West Germany about their armed forces in Africa? Who questioned the United States during the past 25 years, when it had a military base and many troops in Ethiopian territory? This kind of question reflects confusion and amounts to interference.

Accordingly, U.S. President Carter and his secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, have not only interfered in the internal affairs of Ethiopia in the past few days by repeatedly referring to and exaggerating the number of advisers from friendly countries, but they have also arrogated to themselves the right to choose Ethiopia's friends. Not only that, but they have revealed that their covert tactics are intended to obstruct Ethiopia's just and defensive struggle to protect its borders, and to support Somalia's aggressive invasion.

In order to portray Ethiopia--purely the victim of aggression--as an invader, they have stated that if Ethiopia were to violate Somali territory this would be of concern to the United States. Even though the U.S. Government realizes that Somalia has violated Ethiopian territory, it has nevertheless seen to it that Somali territory is guaranteed by the imperialists. Even though Ethiopia has repeatedly stated that its struggle is to protect its revolution, and in spite of the fact that it is known that Ethiopia is not occupying a single inch of Somali territory, the supporters of the Somali Government are intensifying their threats and--as is well known to the world--their forces are siding with Somalia in all respects. Yet, even in the face of all this, we are not pursuing an aggressive policy, but just as we stand for peace and democracy there is no force capable of obstructing our just struggle from winning its victory.

CEMA OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH MENGISTU

LD091614Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] E. Szopa, deputy secretary of CEMA, arrived in Addis Ababa today on a week's working visit.

"Comrade Szopa said on arrival at Bole International Airport that the purpose of his visit to Ethiopia is to hold talks with Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] chairman, concerning Ethiopia's request for CEMA aid. Comrade Szopa said that member-countries of the council support the revolutionary struggle of the Ethiopian people for their territorial integrity and national independence.

"Comrade 2d Lt Demessew Kassaye, PMAC member, for his part, expressed gratitude to the socialist countries for the support they have extended to Ethiopia at a time when it is engaged in the throes of a bitter and decisive struggle."

RAILROAD REOPENED 6 MARCH AFTER BRIDGE REPAIRS

LD091328Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Repair work on one of the rail bridges between the towns of Afdem and Yerer, which had been damaged by the invading troops of the reactionary Mogadiscio regime, has been completed and the line resumed operations last Monday. Comrade Lt Col Getachew Shibeshi, PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] member heading the Operations and Defense Department, and Comrade 2d Lt Demeke Banchew, PMAC member assigned to the Hararge Region, have visited the newly-repaired rail bridge and the town of (?Vikke) on the railway line.

ADDIS ABABA REPORTS PUBLIC EXECUTION IN WALAGA

LD091402Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0500 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] On the occasion of the 82d anniversary of the battle of Aduwa last Thursday in Horo and Gudur Subdistrict of Walaga Region, a revolutionary measure was applied in the presence of a crowd of spectators to a leading Shifta who had been engaging in banditry for the past 5 years.

This bandit, Mosissa Maissa, had fled to the bush before the revolution after killing three people and destroying the homes and property of many people. In 1975 he was captured by farmers of the area together with men in uniform. He was then tried, found guilty and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. This was reported by the Horo and Gudur Subdistrict administrator, who went on to say that he escaped from the regional prison in October before completing his term of imprisonment, after which he took to roaming around the district as a bandit, destroying farmhouses and other property. He was actively pursued by farmers and men in uniform, who succeeded in capturing him on 21 February. The farmers of the area subsequently decided to apply the revolutionary step which was taken against him.

EPRP FOLLOWERS APOLOGIZE TO 'GATHERING OF THOUSANDS'

LD091620Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0500 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] On 5 March in Awash Malkatta town, Dodotta Subdistrict, Arusi Region, about 60 Ethiopian People's Revolution Party [EPRP] followers publicly apologized to a gathering of thousands and rejoined the revolutionary camp. The repentants include the secretary of six farmers associations of the Adama Subdistrict.

ETHIOPIAN FORCES TEACHING REBELS 'LASTING LESSONS'

LD091854Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The regular and people's militia forces in the District of Senafe in Eritrea region are teaching lasting lessons to the [word indistinct] secessionist group of the area and are simultaneously carrying out revolutionary and social undertakings along with the inhabitants of the district.

The patriots have proved false and malicious the propaganda spread by secessionist elements to smear the revolutionary role of the Ethiopian forces. The inhabitants of Senafe District along with regular forces and peoples' militia members are now busy carrying out series of revolutionary tasks.

KENYA

FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA

LD091852Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The vice president, Mr Daniel Arap Moi, has said in Bonn, West Germany, that Kenyans are ready to make the highest sacrifice to defend the country's territorial integrity. Mr Moi observed that the situation of violence pertaining in the Horn of Africa is a result of Somalia's misguided concept of Somali empire, covering parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti.

He said Kenya is firmly behind Ethiopia in the Ogaden conflict. Mr Moi said Kenya appreciates the stand by Western countries not to supply arms to Somalia and strongly castigated some countries which have rushed to aid Somalia in its aggression against Ethiopia.

The vice president hailed the good relations between Kenya and West Germany and the expanded cooperation in all fields of development.

The Kenyan delegation was treated to a party by the federal foreign minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

SOMALI CHARGE SAYS SOVIET AIRCRAFT SUPPORT ETHIOPIA

BK091656Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1652 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Nairobi, March 9 (AFP)--Soviet aircraft flying from warships in the Gulf of Aden prepared the ground for the capture of Jijiga from Somali guerrillas this week, a Somali charge d'affaires here charged today.

The diplomat, Hussein Dirir, said the offensive to re-take the strategically vital town was directed by three Soviet generals and high-ranking Cubans and that no Ethiopian forces took part.

Meanwhile, the Western Somali Liberation Front admitted that the towns of Degahabur and Fich, in the southeast of Ogaden Province, had also been evacuated.

The Ethiopian national war command [NROC] in Addis Ababa yesterday claimed capture of the towns and said its counter-offensive was advancing "with lightning speed."

But Mr Dirir said the guerrillas were continuing to fight in the mountains and would "fight in front of Ogaden, in the Ogaden and behind the Ogaden."

He told a press conference here that "fighters and bombers" which led the attack on Jijiga "were taking off from Russian warships in the Gulf of Aden." Mr Dirir went on to dismiss rumors of unrest in Somalia. "Everyone," he said, backed President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Embassy here today said that "in an effort to avert unnecessary bloodshed, Ethiopian Air Force planes continue to drop leaflets written in the Somali language urging fleeing Somali troops to surrender."

SOMALIA

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ANNOUNCING OGADEN WITHDRAWAL

LD092020Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text of statement issued by Government of Somalia on 9 March on the conflict in the Horn of Africa; read by Acting Information Minister Abdisalam Sheikh Hussein--live]

[Text] As is known, at the end of the 19th Century the Ethiopian empire occupied part of Somalia's territory during the scramble for Africa. This was followed by the occupation of Somali territory by the same empire in 1948 and again in 1954.

While the rest of the people of Africa were fighting for their independence, so were the people of the Western Somalia fighting for their independence and opposing Abyssinian colonialism and its brutality.

The struggle, which was waged for such a long time, recently gained momentum until the Western Somalia Liberation Front [WSLF] had succeeded in liberating most of its country, particularly since the beginning of 1977.

Throughout the duration of this long struggle the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] has always tried to insure that Western Somalia gain its independence in a peaceful and understanding manner. Everybody knows how many times and in how many places the SDR urged the Abyssinian government to agree to self-determination for this people. However, successive Abyssinian governments obstinately refused to recognize the rights of this people.

The SDR, believing that the independence of the Western Somalia has not yet been achieved, extended to the WSLF full support, just as it extends its assistance to all freedom fighters of the world.

When the forces of Western Somalia freed themselves from Abyssinian colonialism, foreign allied forces intervened in order to crush the forces of the freedom fighters and to undermine their victories and crush the masses of the Western Somalia.

Moreover, these allied forces launched attacks and continuous air raids against some parts of the SDR.

These attacks caused heavy loss of human life and damage to property.

These arbitrary attacks on the SDR and the interference of the foreign troops forced the SDR to send some units to its troops to assist the freedom fighters. But now, today, when the big powers have suggested that the problem of the Horn of Africa be solved peacefully and that all foreign troops withdraw from the Horn of Africa, and that Somalia withdraw its units, at the same time promising that the rights of Western Somalia will be safeguarded, the Central Committee of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] has decided that the Somali units be withdrawn.

Somalia appeals to the big powers:

1. That foreign troops withdraw from the conflict in the Horn of Africa;

2. That the rights of the people of Western Somalia, including their right to self-determination, be recognized and safeguarded;

3. That steps be immediately taken to guarantee a just and lasting peace in the Horn of Africa.

TANZANIA

NYERERE ADDRESSES ENVOYS; AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS'

LD092030Y Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1799 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Arusha--President Nyerere has said that Tanzania's aim in aiding the liberation struggle in southern Africa is not to spread the policy of socialism but rather to eradicate completely racial discrimination, imperialism and colonialism in the Continent of Africa.

Speaking to Tanzania's envoys, who are currently holding a meeting behind closed doors in Arusha, Mwalimu said it would be up to the independent nationalist governments to choose socialism or capitalism in those countries.

On aid to the freedom fighters, Mwalimu affirmed that the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa would continue to be supported by the African Continent in their efforts for liberation.

Reports from Arusha say the envoys agreed that the people of Zimbabwe should continue to wage the liberation war while the talks on the structure of a majority government and complete independence are underway.

The envoys strongly condemned the internal settlement recently reached by rebel Smith and his puppets.

This evening Prime Minister Ndugu Spokoine addressed the envoys. He briefed them on the country's development since their last meeting in 1975.

The envoys agreed that the current steps being undertaken as regards the talks on the independence of Namibia should be continued with the aim of procuring complete independence for that country under SWAPO's leadership.

UGANDA

KAMPALA CITES MENGISTU MESSAGE TO AMIN ON CONFLICT

LD092024Y Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Ethiopian head of state, Lt Col Mengistu, Haile Mariam, has sent a message to Field Marshal Amin informing him of the developments in the Horn of Africa in general, and in Ethiopia in particular.

He said: I have always made an effort to the extent possible to acquaint my African colleagues with developments in the Horn of Africa in general, and in Ethiopia in particular.

As Your Excellency is aware, the conspiracy of reactionary and imperialist forces to dismember Ethiopia and reverse the course of its revolution has been intensified recently. It has been some time now since the expansionist regime of Somalia has launched a war of aggression against Ethiopia. Encouraged by increased flow of arms, money and in certain cases military personnel, including combatants from well-known quarters whose leaders have always harbored expansionist dreams of controlling the Red Sea, the secessionist elements in northern Ethiopia have stepped up their renegade activities. My government considers that this conspiracy against Ethiopia, which is spearheaded by imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes in the region, is only a prelude to a general and expanded offensive against black Africa and poses a great threat to the hard-won independence of our people. I have highlighted this fact and explained unambiguously Ethiopia's position in a statement I made on 30th January 1978 in nationwide broadcast, a copy of which I am enclosing herewith for Your Excellency's perusal.

The peace and stability of this part of Africa can only be assured when all states involved adhere to the letter and spirit of the cardinal principles governing relations among state members of the UN and the OAU.

It is with this in mind that we demand the immediate withdrawal of all Somali forces from Ethiopian territory and the secession of interference by imperialist and reactionary regimes in the internal affairs of Ethiopia.

I am convinced that Your Excellency and the brotherly people of your great country would continue to give their full support to the just cause of the struggling people of Ethiopia whose ultimate victory will strengthen the principles enshrined in the charters of the UN and the OAU.

Please accept, Your Excellency and dear brother, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

BURUNDI

PRESIDENT BAGAZA GIVES INTERVIEW TO BRUSSELS PAPER

LD091553Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 5-6 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Etienne Ugeux undated interview in Bujumbura with Burundi President Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza: "An Exclusive Interview With the New President of Burundi"]

[Excerpts] The Burundi head of state granted our special envoy an interview in Bujumbura.

This is the first time Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza has agreed to meet a Belgian journalist since he came to power following the peaceful coup d'etat on 1 November 1976 which removed Colonel Micombero from office.

[Question] Mr President, we asked him, you recently made the following statement: "On 1 November the Burundi people decided to turn away from a past which had no more to offer and set out on the road to national reconstruction with determination." You also said: "My government has taken a series of measures to create a modern society based on justice and equality for all and a fair distribution of national wealth." Can you tell me what the principal measures are, and what they cover in practical terms?

[Answer] This was the statement we made to the diplomatic corps when we met them at new year. In more concrete terms, one of the first reforms undertaken was reorganizing a rather corrupt administration which no longer fulfilled its social task. We have achieved tangible results, and diplomats residing here have noticed that this reorganization has reduced corruption, fraud and lethargy in public administration.

Still in the social field, we have done away with certain forms of injustice and have, in particular, abolished "Ubugererwa," the nearest French equivalent for this term being serfdom. This was an extremely unjust system which closely bound individuals and even their descendants to other people.

In the field of land ownership, we have redistributed land which officials had unlawfully appropriated. We have shared this land among people from overpopulated areas.

We have also reorganized other sectors. For example, we have abolished the poll tax (which dated from colonial days).

[Question] But hasn't this been replaced by obligatory savings?

[Answer] The law on obligatory savings is very different from the tax law. For example, the new legislation does not make provision for proceeding against offenders. It was essentially designed to change the peasants' habit of hiding money at home which cannot benefit anyone. This money will now be used in projects benefitting the whole community. And of course the saver is entitled to withdraw his money from the savings bank.

[Question] You have also concentrated on reforming the UPRONA Party (Party for Union and National Progress). What is its role in the country?

[Answer] The party's mission is to lead the people. It serves as a link between the government and the people. It must help to mobilize people in the development work and help them in production. It also has to keep watch over the smooth running of the administration. People participate in public life in the party framework. In short, the party helps to strengthen national unity.

[Question] What is the main aim of the 1978-1982 5-year plan?

[Answer] It was essential to plan all our movement's activities so as to avoid failure. Without an overall plan there was a danger of not being fully aware of priority action to be taken in the life of the nation. Indeed, some sectors are more important than others. And this plan reveals priority areas.

[Question] Do you think the population explosion is the most complex and delicate problem facing your country if it is to survive?

[Answer] Our country is genuinely overpopulated. This population situation must be solved by deployment or the people will be in danger of starving. But this development requires education and training for the essentially rural masses. Without education it would be impossible to make them understand the meaning of family planning and hence reduce the birthrate. This education will take time and so there can be no immediate solution. However, the situation can be eased by reorganizing certain regions so that people could settle there. A certain amount of emigration might also be envisaged. But there are only temporary solutions and do not solve the real problem which is causing us great concern and has led us to set up a special commission.

[Question] Has the calm which followed the tragic events of 1972 and 1973 been confirmed by the return of your compatriots who fled to neighboring countries? Have camps been set up for those returning to the country?

[Answer] There are no camps. Many refugees returned to the country and immediately went back to their families. Those without any family went to the authorities. Families which had abandoned their land have been given another piece of land if theirs was occupied in their absence by families without land. However, anyone who illegally occupied someone else's land when they already had their own have been forced to restore it.

[Question] What is your thinking on foreign policy in view of the fact that Burundi has signed bilateral cooperation agreements with countries of different ideologies?

[Answer] All countries do the same. In fact, we have no particular philosophy on this subject except a very open attitude to the rest of the world. We are a nonalined country.

Above all, we want good-neighborly relations with the countries around us. As far as more distant countries are concerned, we follow the same policy of noninterference in their internal affairs. We are prepared to cooperate with any country which is willing to do so in a spirit of mutual respect.

[Question] The economic community of great lake countries (union with Rwanda and Zaire) appears to be moving very slowly. Is this true?

[Answer] Your question comes at a time when this community is developing particularly rapidly, as it has done for a year now. Besides setting up its administration, the community is busy developing various important projects.

[Question] What criticisms do you have of cooperation with Belgium and what are your plans in this respect?

[Answer] No cooperation is ever perfect. There have been some delays in carrying out joint projects with Belgium. The joint commission which meets once a year provides an opportunity for establishing how much of the cooperation program has been carried out, whether half or three-fourths. The commission discusses the program and sometimes its directions are questioned and this slows things down.

[Question] And what about cooperation with the EEC?

[Answer] Discussions with the EEC are tough. But once a decision has been taken it stands and is carried out. The same is not always true of Belgium.

[Question] Mr President, everyone in Bujumbura already knows that you intend to make an official visit to Belgium in the spring. What do you hope this visit will achieve?

[Answer] We hope to revive cooperation with your country and dispel the deep distrust which has existed since the 1972 events.

ZAIRE

BRUSSELS MISSION SCORES REPORTS OF ATTEMPTED COUP

LD091443Y Brussels LE SOIR in French 5-6 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Zaire Embassy Denounces a "Campaign of Deception"]

[Excerpts] Zaire's Embassy in Brussels published the following communique on Friday: "For several days now, while Belgian and Zairian experts have been negotiating the Mobutu Plan in Brussels, a large amount of contradictory information on Zaire, obviously hastily fabricated, has been distributed by small groups which are carrying out a campaign aimed at discrediting the current regime in Zaire. "Major events such as an attempted coup d'etat and the massacre of villagers have been reported without being backed by the slightest proof."

Indeed, as regards the Idiofa massacre, the Zaire Committee claims that whole villages were destroyed and their inhabitants massacred by the Zairian Army. And later in the same text, it declares that all the villagers were forced to watch exemplary public executions, although they were supposed to be dead.

The confusion reaches its height over the "attempted coup d'etat." The various information sources contradict each other.

The Zaire Committee, which is made up of foreigners, states that "there has been an attempted coup d'etat." And according to the Action Movement for the Resurrection of the Congo, a small group of Zairians living in Belgium, "this maneuver is designed to throw us off the scent." These small groups are trying to launch a campaign of deception to distract Zaire and its partners from the Mobutu Plan, which is being carried out. They are wasting their time.

MALI

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ARRESTED FOR TREASON

OW091339Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Bamako, Mali, March 9 (AFP)--Minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the West African State of Mali, Col Charles Samba Sissoko, has been arrested for high treason, informed sources here said today.

President Moussa Traore on February 28 announced the arrests on similar charges of three other members of the ruling Military Committee.

NIGERIA

NIGERIA, NIGER CONDEMN RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

LD091004Y Lagos International Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nigeria and Niger have called on all countries in the world to reject any attempt to install an undemocratic regime in Zimbabwe. In a joint communique issued in Lagos yesterday, the two countries condemned and rejected the recent attempt by the illegal regime to deny the people of the territory the right to choose their own authentic leaders. They renewed their total support for the South-West Africa People's Organization as the legitimate body representing the people of Namibia. They called on Somalia and Ethiopia to resolve their differences over the Ogaden region by peaceful means. The Niger leader leaves Lagos this morning for home.

ANGOLA

POLITBURO MEMBER RECEIVES TANJUG DIRECTOR GENERAL

LD091616Y Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Politburo member Lucio Lara has had a meeting with the director general of TANJUG, Pero Ivacic, who has been in Angola since Monday. Lucio Lara referred to the friendly relations existing between the two countries and spoke generally about the situation in our country.

The TANJUG director general had a meeting later with Central Committee member Ilidio Machado.

The TANJUG director general is here to sign a cooperation agreement with the Angolan news agency ANGOP.

CUBA'S PEREZ HERRERO PRESIDES OVER WOMEN'S DAY MEETING

FL091844Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero has presided over the event held by the Cuban civil mission in Luanda in honor of International Women's Day. The event brought to an end a series of activities held by the Cuban collaborators in several Angolan provinces to celebrate the date.

MOZAMBIQUE

FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO RETURNS FROM LIBYA

LD092159Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano returned to Maputo today from Libya, where he attended the session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

MAPUTO REPORTS MACHEL SPEECH ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LD091314Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 8 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The opening session of the first national planning conference has just ended. During it the president of FRELIMO and of the People's Republic of Mozambique delivered a speech giving important guidelines for the planning of our country's economy.

Present at the session were members of the party's permanent political committee, the FRELIMO Central Committee, the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and represenatives of various local and state central organizations and from mass democratic organizations. Also present were delegation from the USSR, the GDR, the Socialist Republic of Cuba, the DPRK, the People's Republic of Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Cape Verde Republic.

On being requested by the party's economic policy secretary to address the session, President Samora Machel commenced by recalling that it is now a year since the students of the 10th and 11th classes responded to the appeal to interrupt their studies to back the priority sectors for our economic and social development. Our efforts after 10 years of hard struggle won political power, said the FRELIMO president, who added: This victory unleashed the new fundamental battle, the battle to bring about the transformation of our life. President Samora Machel said: It is in the economic field where we wage the main battle: Led by FRELIMO, we are engaged in transforming the material base of our country, making the socialist mode of production dominant in our country so as to win the battle against misery.

At another point, the supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution stressed that planning constitutes the means of bringing about progress, and centralization of planning is a prerequisite of socialist development. The main objectives of socialism are neither new things [word indistinct] nor abstract things, but more food, more clothing, more schools: a life [words indistinct] better life. The president went on to stress that it is the party, which, by virtue of its political and ideological enlightenment and the actions and example of its militants, makes the participation of the masses in the achievement of socialism positive and aware.

Later in his speech, Samora Machel stated that in the present situation, taking inventories and organizing constitutes the essential method of planning, and the starting point of the process of satisfying our people's fundamental needs. Another point made by the FRELIMO president during his important speech was the interdependence of the various economic sectors which makes comprehensive planning essential at all levels. Elsewhere in his speech the FRELIMO president stated that the aim of this conference is to contribute toward the establishment of a national planning commission correctly adjusted to national needs and solidly rooted in our revolutionary practice. The supreme leader of the nation concluded: Planning is a tool to consolidate the political [word indistinct] of the power of the workers and peasants, of the workers in general, strengthening our economic power through the development of the state and cooperative sector of the economy, through the implementation of socialist relations of production. He added: Planning is the primary means of transforming the economic and social basis of our life: It defines the concrete tasks we have to carry out in the field of heavy industry-based socialist industrialization and the socialization of agriculture and its mechanization.

Finally the president of FRELIMO named the main tasks to be carried out for the economic development of the country. The development of the rural sector requires the organization, consolidation and development of state agricultural firms and the organized inception of the agricultural cooperative movement, stated President Samora. Among other tasks he cited the implementation of major projects, the maximum use of light industry capacity, the creation of conditions to enable us to enter the phase of heavy industry construction in the 1980's. The FRELIMO president ended by hailing those present at the conference as well as the delegations from socialist countries.

RHODESIA

SPOKESMAN REJECTS GENEVA-STYLE CONFERENCE ON SETTLEMENT

LD092154Y Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Rhodesian Government has rejected a suggestion that a new Geneva-style conference on the country should be staged, involving all parties concerned. Commenting on the suggestion made by India and Kuwait before the Security Council, a spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Salisbury said the concept of a new Rhodesia conference was something nobody wanted.

The spokesman also criticized the Security Council for its failure to reply to a Rhodesian request for a hearing during the current debate on the settlement agreement.

U.S., UK POSITION ON INTERNAL SETTLEMENT SCORED

NC091856Y Paris AFP in English 1840 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Salisbury, March 9 (AFP)--The refusal of the British and U.S. governments to endorse the Rhodesian internal settlement will encourage terrorism, government sources here said today.

They described the line taken by British Foreign Secretary David Owen [words indistinct] Secretary of State Cyrus Vance as "disappointing but predictable."

Mr Owen and Mr Vance met in Washington yesterday to discuss the internal settlement announced 10 days ago, which is under debate at the U.N. Security Council.

Mr Owen said in London today that neither government was endorsing or rejecting the settlement, signed by Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith and three black moderates.

"Their stated position will encourage the terrorists to continue the war, in contrast to the attempts inside Rhodesia to de-escalate the conflict," the sources said.

The sources said the interim government which will lead the country to majority rule by December 31 could be set up in about two weeks.

No firm date has yet been announced.

SOUTH AFRICA

VORSTER PLEDGES GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEW RHODESIA GOVERNMENT

PA091830Y Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[By Edmon Marco]

[Text] Cape Town, March 9 (AFP)--South Africa is ready to cooperate on a good neighbour basis with the future black majority Government of Rhodesia, even if it is not internationally recognised, Prime Minister John Vorster said today.

In an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, Mr Vorster refused to say whether relations with the future Government of Zimbabwe would involve military cooperation.

Mr Vorster reiterated that South Africa would stick by its pledge to grant independence to Namibia [South-West Africa] by next December 31 whatever the outcome of the initiative by the Western powers seeking an internationally acceptable settlement of the Namibia problem.

On Rhodesia, Mr Vorster said "There is no reason why the relationship between South Africa and the new set-up (in Rhodesia) will not be of the best, as it behoves neighbouring countries. Non-international recognition will be no deterrent, so far as South Africa is concerned, to cooperate with that government."

Mr Vorster refused comment on military cooperation with the future independent state after being asked about the possibility of armed Soviet support for guerrillas led by Patriotic Front co-leader Robert Mugabe.

On Namibia, the prime minister said that South Africa had begun negotiations with the five Western Security Council powers in April last year "to facilitate international [words indistinct]. Therefore, [if] these negotiations succeed, we will have achieved that aim. If for some reason it does not succeed, then naturally we are back where we started in April last year, when we began negotiations with the five, and we will naturally proceed from there."

Mr Vorster was referring to the independence arrangement, endorsed by Pretoria, worked out at the South African-sponsored Turnhalle conference in Windhoek, which was boycotted by the South-West African People's Organisation [SWAPO].

Mr Vorster said indirectly that South Africa was not considering new concessions to the five Western powers or to SWAPO.

He criticised the five countries--the U.S., West Germany, France, Britain and Canada--for not commenting on a recent interview on South African television by SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma, who reportedly said that SWAPO's main aim was power and not majority rule."

"That statement has naturally clouded the issue very much on the one hand, and on the other hand it has made crystal clear what we always knew was SWAPO's attitude, namely that it does not want a peaceful settlement, but a revolutionary takeover in the classic Marxist fashion," Mr Vorster said.

The prime minister categorically rejected the possibility of applying one-man, one-vote and an end to race discrimination--as generally accepted for Namibia--to South Africa.

Mr Vorster said the South African situation could not be compared with either that of Rhodesia or of Namibia, and reaffirmed Pretoria's policy of giving independence to the Bantustans [black homelands].

The prime minister warned that South Africa might adopt a neutral attitude as far as the Western and Eastern blocs are concerned. Developing a recent statement by Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Mr Vorster said the West should not take South Africa for granted and that the country would act in its own interest.

"But it is time that the West realises that it cannot kick us in the teeth and then expect us to stand smilingly behind them in case of trouble, and that is putting it very (?bluntly).

"I put it bluntly in an effort to make the West realise the gravity of the situation. Nothing more and nothing less must be read into this statement," Mr Vorster said.

The prime minister also said that international economic sanctions would not finish off South Africa, although they would hurt.

"But if sanctions hurt, they cannot (?kill)...not South Africa. But they could kill such countries as Botswana, Lesotho (economically dependent on Pretoria) and others. It also stands to reason that the black populations of South Africa will be the worst affected."

Mr Vorster warned that in the case of such sanctions, there would be no trade whatsoever. "If they (the United Nations) decide to apply economic sanctions, then of course there cannot be retaliatory measures, because there will be no trade whatsoever....You cannot eat your cake and have it."

JOHANNESBURG COMMENTS ON UNREST IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

LD091416Y Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] The fact that the past 2 weeks of unrest in South-West Africa have been between the Ovambos and the Hereros has to a certain extent created the impression of ethnic differences between rival indigenous groups, and there are those who would be quite content to allow this theme to develop as part of a suggestion of overall strife in a country on the threshhold of independence.

Far from it. As the chief minister of Ovambo, Paster Ndjoba, pointed out last night, it is in fact SWAPO that is behind the unrest which has occurred in the Windhoek township of Katatura and at Okakarara, and who could be better qualified to state this fact than the man who leads the people, from whom SWAPO draws most of its supporters.

The fact of the matter is that SWAPO inciters are behind the unofficial strike of Ovambo workers in Windhoek and, as Pastor Ndjoba said, the Vambos should not allow themselves to be led by the nose by inciters who are themselves still working. Further evidence of SWAPO incitement comes from the labor secretary of the organization, Mr Angula, who has repeated that the strike will continue unless the police release all Vambos being detained for carrying dangerous weapons, unless all Hereros who migrated to Windhoek return to their homeland and unless none of the strikers are discharged.

So the SWAPO conditions for ending the strike and unrest are in fact political and not labor-orientated. SWAPO wants its potential supporters who carry dangerous weapons to be freed and it wants the Hereros, who are of course strong supporters of the democratic Turnhalle alliance, out of the way.

The inescapable result has been unrest and violence in which 10 people have died and more than 90 were wounded, not because of ethnic differences but as the result of political incitement on the part of SWAPO.

The answer to this comes from the administrator general of South-West Africa, Mr Justice M. P. Steyn, who has issued a warning that if violence continues it will be opposed and stopped, regardless of which people or parties are involved. In his words, the independence of South-West Africa will be gained through the ballot box and not through the barrel of a gun.

ZAMBIA

LUSAKA SAYS RHODESIAN FORCES REPULSED FROM LUANGWA

LD092158Y Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD/CA

[Excerpt] The Zambia national defense forces have repulsed the rebel troops from Luangwa, formerly Feira District. A government spokesman announced in Lusaka today that the rebel forces have been repulsed and the Zambian forces are now only engaged in mopping up operations in the district. He said the situation is calm after the unprovoked and indiscriminate attack on the district launched by the rebel troops last Sunday. Fighting broke out in the district when rebel Rhodesian forces launched an unprovoked and indiscriminate attack on Zambia, using jets, helicopters and ground troops.

PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER NKOMO CANCELS VISIT TO FINLAND

LD092244Y Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 2000 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front Joshua Nkomo has canceled his visit to Finland due to start on Monday. Nkomo told the Finnish mission in New York that the UN Security Council's sessions on Rhodesia prevent his arrival in Finland. Nkomo announced at the same time that he is prepared to visit Finland later.

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